

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed federal activity in the Virginia coastal waters.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

September 21, 2016 to November 10, 2016

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a federal action to determine whether it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program established pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The Virginia CZM Program seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal zone.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:**

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement Amendment 10 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). NMFS finalized the most recent Atlantic HMS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) 5-Year Review on July 1, 2015 and determined that updates to Atlantic HMS EFH were warranted. NMFS also determined that modifications to current Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*) and the consideration of new HAPCs for lemon sharks (*Negaprion brevirostris*) and sand tiger sharks (*Carcharias taurus*) may be warranted. The purpose of Amendment is to update Atlantic HMS EFH with recent information following the EFH delineation methodology established in Amendment 1 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP (Amendment 1); update and consider new HAPCs for Atlantic HMS based on recent information, as warranted; minimize to the extent practicable the adverse effects of fishing and non-fishing activities on EFH, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of EFH. NMFS has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed action consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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